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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Schuhbauer, et al.  
Based on : PCT/EP00/09585  
International Filing Date : 29 September 2000  
For : RETARD FORM CONTAINING  $\alpha$ -LIPOIC ACID (DERIVATIVES)

March 20, 2002

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

S I R :

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice and add the following new claims:

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27. A sustained release form comprising
- (a) one or more cationogenic polymers,
  - (b)  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid or/and a derivative thereof and
  - (c) at least one acid different from (b).